HOLLIDAY CREEK ARCH PROTECTED AREA

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

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Approved by:

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Date: March 18/03

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Date:

Holliday Creek Arch Protected Area
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Holliday Creek Arch Protected Area lies north of Highway 16 in the Robson Valley, between the communities of McBride and Dunster. Large nearby parks include Mount Robson and West Twin.

The arch is visible from a short section of Highway 16, but there is no road access to Holliday Creek Arch Protected Area. Visitors wishing to view the arch from within the protected area must hike a rough, steep trail of approximately 8 km. Two hiking trails provide access to viewpoints in the protected area.

Holliday Creek Arch Protected Area is comprised of 395 ha within the Northern Park Ranges. The primary protected area feature is a natural arch, 80 m wide and 18 m high, spanning a steep, rocky gully. It is possible that Holliday Arch may be the only feature of its kind in British Columbia, which would make it provincially as well as regionally significant.

The protected area also protects the surrounding landscape of Englemann Spruce - Subalpine Fir biogeoclimatic zone (ESSF mm1), and alpine tundra at higher elevations.

Mountain goats are frequently observed in the area of the arch. Grizzly densities are high in forested areas and moderate in the alpine areas of the protected area. Lower elevations are important as winter range for moose and deer.

The area has been protected as a reserve for Use, Recreation and Enjoyment by Public (UREP) since September 27, 1974. The Protected Areas Strategy identified the Holliday Creek Arch area as a Goal 2 Area of Interest, and the Robson Valley Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) supported protected area status in 1999. The area was established as a protected area under the Environment and Land Use Act to allow for the possible construction, use and maintenance of a road through the protected area for the purpose of providing access to forest lands and other resources beyond the protected area.

Primary Role
The primary role of Holliday Creek Arch Protected Area is to provide protection for a unique and scenic natural feature, possibly the only one of its kind in British Columbia.

Secondary Role
The secondary role of the park is to provide hiking access for viewing of the natural arch, and opportunities for nature appreciation and wildlife viewing.

Tertiary Role
The tertiary role is to protect valuable mountain goat and grizzly habitat.

Known Management Issues	Response
Hillside slipping	• Access to the arch may have to be closed for conservation and public safety reasons.
Future Road Access	• If a decision is made to proceed with the road through the protected area as allowed for in the establishing order in council, review and impact assessment processes will need to determine impacts on both the grizzly and the mountain goat populations and appropriate mitigation measures.

Zoning

The entirety of Holliday Creek Arch Protected Area (395 hectares) is zoned Natural Environment (protection of scenic values and provision of recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment).

CONSERVATION

Representation		
• ecosection		Negligible contribution to the well represented Northern Park Ranges Ecosection.
• biogeoclimatic subzone/variant		Minimal representation to the ESSF mm1, ICH mm and AT.
Special Feature	X	A natural bedrock arch, possibly the only feature of its kind in British Columbia.
Rare/Endangered Values		
Scientific/Research Opportunities	X	Geomorphology – natural arch

RECREATION

Representation:		
• backcountry	X	The protected area provides access to alpine backcountry beyond the arch viewpoint
• destination		
• travel corridor		
• local recreation	X	Popular local destination for hiking and viewing; wildlife viewing
Special Opportunities		
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	X	Landform formation

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation		
Special Feature		

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations	X	The watershed has been protected as a reserve for the Use, Recreation and Enjoyment by Public (UREP) since 1974.
Relationship to Other PAs	X	Lower Raush, Upper Raush, and Small River Caves are protected areas close to Holliday Creek Arch.
Co-operative Management Arrangements		
Partnerships		Potential for partnerships for co-operative management of

		viewpoint and trailhead along Highway 16, and trail to protected area.
Vulnerability	X	The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 4 risk factors (the shape, the size of the park, watershed integrity, and terrestrial ecosystem replication) for the park and rated them as moderately significant. One stressor/threat was identified for the park: Hunting which was rated as low significance. Future road access adjacent to Holliday Creek could impact the protected area's natural values
Relationship to Other Strategies	X	Robson Valley LRMP

Area: 395 hectares
Date of establishment: January 25, 2001

Zoning Map - Holliday Creek Arch Protected Area

Natural Environment
Protected Area Boundary